

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
September 23, 2025
3000 Bellemead Drive, Daytona Beach Shores, FL 32118

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR

Mayor Miller called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. It was announced that Commissioner Conomos was not able to attend in person due to illness and wished to join by telephone.

VICE MAYOR MICHAEL POLITIS moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER STEPHAN DEMBINSKY to Approve Commissioner Conomos to join the meeting by telephone and be entitled to vote.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4 No = 0).

Yes: Mayor Nancy Miller, Vice Mayor Michael Politis, Commissioner Mark Card, Commissioner Stephan Dembinsky

2. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK

Present: Mayor Nancy Miller, Vice Mayor Michael Politis, Commissioner Chris Conomos, Commissioner Mark Card, Commissioner Stephan Dembinsky

Staff: City Manager Kurt Swartzlander, City Clerk Cheri Schwab, City Attorney Garrett Olsen, Community Services Director Stewart Cruz, Finance Director Lory Irwin, Economic Development and Public Affairs Director Nancy Maddox, and Public Safety Director Michael Fowler.

3. PRAYER

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. NEW BUSINESS (TRIM PROCESS ONLY):

A. Resolution 2025-16 Final Levying of Ad Valorem Taxes for FY 25-26

The City Attorney read the resolution by title only. Finance Director Lory Irwin stated that the final millage would be 4.5880 which is the same rate as last year. The rolled back rate is 4.4529, so this is a tax increase of 3.03% over the rolled back rate. The first hearing was held on September 8th. Mayor Miller opened the hearing to public comment, but there was none.

VICE MAYOR MICHAEL POLITIS moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER CHRIS CONOMOS to Adopt Resolution 2025-16 Final Levying of Ad Valorem Taxes for FY 25-26.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5 No = 0).

Yes: Mayor Nancy Miller, Vice Mayor Michael Politis, Commissioner Chris Conomos, Commissioner Mark Card, Commissioner Stephan Dembinsky

B. Resolution 2025-17 Adopting the Final Budget for FY 25-26

The City Attorney read the resolution by title only. Director Irwin stated that the total city budget was \$97,477,400. The individual funds were noted for the record. Mayor Miller opened the public hearing but there were no comments from the audience.

COMMISSIONER STEPHAN DEMBINSKY moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER MARK CARD to Adopt Resolution 2025-17 Adopting the Final Budget for FY 25-26.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5 No = 0).

Yes: Mayor Nancy Miller, Vice Mayor Michael Politis, Commissioner Chris Conomos, Commissioner

Mark Card, Commissioner Stephan Dembinsky

6. CEREMONIAL ITEMS, PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC NOTICES:

A. Presentation to Rose Ann Tornatore for her service to Planning & Zoning Board
Mayor Miller presented Rose Ann Tornatore with a plaque for her 16 years of service on the Planning & Zoning Board.

B. Letter of thanks from R.J. Longstreet Elementary
Mayor Miller read the letter of appreciation from R.J. Longstreet Elementary.

C. Presentation on Hurricane Preparedness
City Manager Kurt Swartzlander, Public Safety Director Michael Fowler and Community Services Director Stewart Cruz gave a brief hurricane prep presentation. They all spoke of activities done prior, during and after the storm. The city stays in close contact with the County of Volusia Emergency Operations Center.

D. Vice Chair Matt Reinhart update on County items
Vice Chair Matt Reinhart provided an update on various county projects. They included: sand project placement, coastal feasibility study, transform 386, county wide infrastructure, Frank Rendon Park restoration and a few others. He was especially proud of the 2nd Chance Initiative with the Corrections Division. Inmates are being trained in various trade positions that would allow employment once they have been released.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. City Commission Minutes September 8, 2025

COMMISSIONER MARK CARD moved, seconded by VICE MAYOR MICHAEL POLITIS to Approve the City Commission Minutes of September 8, 2025.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5 No = 0).

Yes: Mayor Nancy Miller, Vice Mayor Michael Politis, Commissioner Chris Conomos, Commissioner Mark Card, Commissioner Stephan Dembinsky

8. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Public Safety August monthly report

B. Approval to Re-appoint Planning & Zoning Members and Appoint Alternate member to Regular Status

C. Approval for Axon Contracts for Public Safety

VICE MAYOR MICHAEL POLITIS moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER STEPHAN DEMBINSKY to Approve the consent agenda.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5 No = 0).

Yes: Mayor Nancy Miller, Vice Mayor Michael Politis, Commissioner Chris Conomos, Commissioner Mark Card, Commissioner Stephan Dembinsky

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Consideration to appoint member to Volusia Flagler Transportation Planning Organization Citizens' Advisory Committee

COMMISSIONER CHRIS CONOMOS moved, seconded by VICE MAYOR MICHAEL POLITIS to Approve the appointment of Susan Zahniser to the Volusia Flagler Transportation Planning Organization Citizens' Advisory Committee for a term of six months.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5 No = 0).

Yes: Mayor Nancy Miller, Vice Mayor Michael Politis, Commissioner Chris Conomos, Commissioner Mark Card, Commissioner Stephan Dembinsky

- B. Approval of Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Brett Kuzoian, consultant from Castle Bay Design Studio, gave a brief presentation on the proposed Parks & Recreation Master Plan. He noted that the citizen response was excellent in both the in-person meetings and the household survey. Overall, the residents would like to see more shade, particularly near the pickleball courts, the creation of multi-use trails, additional programs at the community center, and enhanced McElroy Park. A concept plan for McElroy Park was shown and discussed. The City Commission held a brief discussion stating the plan was great but there were concerns regarding funding any potential enhancements. At this time, there is no funding towards any large park improvements in the budget for next fiscal year.

VICE MAYOR MICHAEL POLITIS moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER STEPHAN DEMBINSKY to Approve the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5 No = 0).

Yes: Mayor Nancy Miller, Vice Mayor Michael Politis, Commissioner Chris Conomos, Commissioner Mark Card, Commissioner Stephan Dembinsky

- C. Continued Discussion on City Manager Hiring Process

Vice Mayor Politis stated that he is working with City Attorney Vose to ensure the hiring process is done in the "sunshine". A few resumes have been received. Attorney Vose has prepared an outline for the commission to follow, but he would like to fine tune that and will bring back options to the next meeting. Mayor Miller felt like having 90 days to apply was extremely long. She would like to consider changing the closing date to only 45 or 60 days. The remaining commissioners were in agreement with the change to the closing date, but some felt it may not make a difference as the holiday season was beginning. Another topic of discussion was the selection committee members. The Mayor would like to see a resident added to the recommended members.

VICE MAYOR MICHAEL POLITIS moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER MARK CARD, to change the closing date for City Manager applications to be 60 days or November 15th.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5 No = 0).

Yes: Mayor Nancy Miller, Vice Mayor Michael Politis, Commissioner Chris Conomos, Commissioner Mark Card, Commissioner Stephan Dembinsky

10. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS

There were no additional City Attorney comments.

11. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

There were no additional City Manager comments.

12. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Dembinsky requested to be excused for the next meeting as he would be out of the country.

COMMISSIONER MARK CARD moved, seconded by VICE MAYOR MICHAEL POLITIS to approve the excused absence of Commissioner Dembinsky at the next meeting.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5 No = 0).

Yes: Mayor Nancy Miller, Vice Mayor Michael Politis, Commissioner Chris Conomos, Commissioner Mark Card, Commissioner Stephan Dembinsky

No: None

Mayor Miller reviewed the upcoming events.

13. AUDIENCE REMARKS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no audience comments.

14. ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:

There were no additional items discussed for the next agenda.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting ended at 8:08 pm.

**MAYOR
NANCY MILLER**

**CITY MANAGER
KURT D. SWARTZLANDER**

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK, CHERI SCHWAB